

REMARKS

Applicant is in receipt of the Office Action mailed May 27, 2003. Claims 1 – 34 and 36 – 57 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Viswanathan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,047,332, hereinafter “Viswanathan”) in view of Pallmann (U.S. Patent No. 6,094,684). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Viswanathan “relates generally to systems and methods that provide device access through a file system and, particularly, to systems and methods for rendering devices on a cluster globally visible” (Col 1, lines 5 – 8). Viswanathan teaches a “global file system 206, which maintains a single, global file space for all files stored on the cluster” (Col 8, lines 66 – 67) and an operating system kernel 242 modified to support global device access (Col 9, lines 47 – 52). The global file system 206 and modified operating system kernel 242 are key elements of Viswanathan’s method for accessing devices in the cluster 201.

According to Viswanathan’s teaching, an application employs the file system 206 to access a device in the cluster 201 (Col 11, lines 45 – 48; Col 6, lines 59 – 67). This is accomplished by the application issuing an open request referencing the device’s logical name to the modified operating system kernel 242 (Col 16, lines 25 – 26). The kernel 242 then issues a lookup request referencing the device’s logical name to the PxFS client 246, which relays a similar lookup message to the PxFS server 248. The PxFS server 248 issues a request to the file system 206 to map the device’s logical name to the device’s physical name (Col 16, lines 58 – 66). The device’s physical name corresponds to the physical name of a UFS file 170 that includes configuration information for the device, including in its attributes the dev_t value (Col 14, lines 25 – 30). Thus, the logical name of the device is mapped to a physical name which corresponds to a file on the file system 206. For example, the physical path to a SCSI disk on a node 202-x with a global minor number GN, minor name MN, and driver sd@addy is represented in Viswanathan as “/devices/node_202-x/iommu@addr/sbus@addr/esp@addr/sd@addy:MN”. This physical name corresponds to the physical name of the UFS file 170 for the device (Col 14, lines 20-25).

The Examiner states that it would have been obvious for the logical names taught by Viswanathan to comprise Internet URLs as taught by Pallmann so that users can

access the devices taught by Viswanathan from anywhere in the world. Reference is given to Pallmann, Col 9, lines 8 – 10, wherein “the AlphaCONNECT machine 102 enables users to obtain data from and deliver data to computers in locations across the Earth through the Internet.”

Applicant respectfully disagrees and submits that Viswanathan actually teaches away from any proposed combination with Pallman. As described above, Viswanathan teaches a global file system 206 that maintains a single, global file space for the cluster 201. The logical names taught by Viswanathan map to physical files located in the global file system 206. To access a device, the nodes in Viswanathan’s system must first access the physical file corresponding to the respective device from the global file system 206. However, there is no such global file system that is accessible to all computers connected to the Internet, i.e., the “computers in locations across the Earth” taught in Pallmann.

Viswanathan also teaches an operating system kernel 242 modified to support global device access from nodes throughout the cluster 201. As described above, device access in Viswanathan involves an application issuing a request to the modified operating system kernel 242, which eventually relays a request (via a PxFS client 246 and PxFS server 248) to the file system 206 to map the device’s logical name to the device’s physical name. Thus, the device access taught in Viswanathan can only be performed by computers that are a part of the cluster 201 and have access to the global file system 206 and execute the modified operating system kernel 242 taught in Viswanathan. However, it is well known that computers connected to the Internet utilize a plethora of different operating systems and that communication over the Internet is performed largely independently of any particular operating system or file system. Thus, Viswanathan teaches away from Pallmann.

Applicant thus respectfully disagrees with the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection and submits that the present independent claims are allowable as written. Applicant also submits that the dependent claims are allowable for at least this reason. In addition, the present dependent claims include numerous elements that are clearly not taught or suggested by Viswanathan or Pallmann, taken either singly or in combination.

For example, claim 3 as amended recites in part, “wherein said automatically generating comprises including configuration information in one or more URLs; wherein

the configuration information is operable to be used for configuring the respective data source or data target.” Amended claim 19 recites similar features. On the contrary, Viswanathan teaches configuration information for devices on the cluster 201, where the configuration information is stored in a file (Col 14, lines 25 – 27). It is also not clear whether the configuration information taught in Viswanathan is operable to be used to configure the devices on the cluster 201, e.g., as opposed to simply comprising attributes that reflect the current configuration of the devices. Thus, Applicant submits that claims 3 and 19 are allowable.

CONCLUSION

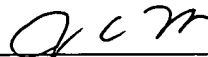
In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits the application is now in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any extensions of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) are necessary to prevent the above referenced application(s) from becoming abandoned, Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extensions. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel PC Deposit Account No. 50-1505/5150-32801/JCH.

Also enclosed herewith are the following items:

- ☒ Return Receipt Postcard
- ☐ Petition for Extension of Time
- ☐ Request for Approval of Drawing Changes
- ☐ Notice of Change of Address
- ☐ Check in the amount of \$ for fees ().
- ☐ Other:

Respectfully submitted,



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